

Books and Resources

St. Anthony Falls and the Mississippi River

For Students

First Came the River

Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, National Park Service, 2005
(Only sold at the Mississippi River Visitor Center located within the Science Museum of MN-\$1.50) This 28 page illustrated booklet provides an introduction the natural history, ecological history and human history within the MNRRA corridor up to the time of Minnesota statehood.

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain

Viking Penguin, New York. 1953 *Grades: 6-Adult*

A boy and a runaway slave travel the Mississippi on a raft in an exciting and sometimes dangerous trip. The Mississippi River influenced much of Twain's work, even his pen-name (from a riverboat working command). While the language and dialect reflect their time, and can be discussed in class, Twain's humanity comes through.

Biography of a River: The Living Mississippi by Edith McCall

Walker and Co., New York. 1990 *Grades: 6-12*

This "biography" details stories of human interactions with the Mississippi, from Native Americans, European explorers, and immigrant settlers to modern engineers and dam-builders. The river "speaks" in the first person in the opening chapter. The emphasis on the "living" nature of the river underscores an important environmental lesson.

Flood: Wrestling with the Mississippi by Patricia Lauber

National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C. 1996 *Grades 5-12*

Flood... explains that the Mississippi's dynamic nature is to change its course, re-arrange the land, and leave its banks, occasionally causing great flooding. We try to control the river, but are not always successful. Well illustrated. The book asks how we should manage the Mississippi's future, but falls short of a full look at restoration and alternatives.

Historical Atlas of the Earth by Stephen Jay Gould, et. al.

Henry Holt Reference Book, Henry Holt & Co. 1996

This large beautifully illustrated book describes the evolution of Earth landscapes to the present. Forces shaping the Earth, evolution of life, and ecosystems are depicted.

Little Crow: Taoyateduta: Leader of the Dakota by Gwenyth Swain

Borealis Books, Minnesota Historical Society Press. 2004 *Grades: 3-adult* This book shows a clear, sympathetic telling of the life of Little Crow from his childhood on the banks of the Mississippi River near what is now St. Paul to his death in July 1863. *Little Crow* offers an accessible account of both the man who led the Dakota into war and the causes behind that wrenching conflict. Swain's story is an excellent starting place for young and older readers to begin understanding the context of the Dakota War of 1862.

Minn of the Mississippi by Holling Clancy Holling

Houghton Mifflin, Boston. 1951 *Grades: 4-8*

The journey of Minn, a snapping turtle, is followed from northern Minnesota to the bayous of Louisiana. The turtle's adventures with people, animals, and the changing seasons are vividly described, and bring the river's history to life. Wonderful drawings and maps accompany the story. Newbery honor book.

Mississippi by Diane Siebert, illustrated by Greg Harlin

Harper Collins. 2001 *Grades: 1-6*

A poetic journey down the length and breadth of the Mississippi River, this picture book depicts the origins, nature, human interactions and changes of the great river.

The Mississippi River (Ecosystems of North America series) by Maria Mudd Ruth

Benchmark Books/Marshall Cavendish, Tarrytown, New York. 2001 *Grades: 4-10*

An excellent exploration of how the Mississippi River works ecologically, this well illustrated book examines the relationship between the river and its backwaters, flood-plains, watershed, delta, plant life, animal life, and human life. Poses questions of the river's future, articulates key science concepts, includes activities, glossary, & references

Mississippi River: A Journey Down the Father of Waters by Peter Lourie

Boyds Mills Press, Honesdale, PA. 2000 *Grades 4-9*

Author Peter Lourie travels the modern Mississippi by canoe and over land from Lake Itasca to the delta. Feel the river change from a peaceful shallow marsh to an industrial ocean port. Along the way you will travel through a navigation lock, explore historic sites, share the river with mighty barges, and hunker down for a hurricane in New Orleans.

Our Endangered Planet: Rivers and Lakes by Mary Hoff and Mary M. Rogers

Lerner Publications, Minneapolis. 1991 *Grades: 4-9*

A global look at the importance of water and its stewardship. Many illustrations and photographs communicate key water concepts, such as "we all live downstream."

Painting the Dakota: Seth Eastman at Fort Snelling by Marybeth Lorbiecki

Afton Historical Society Press, Afton, MN. 2000 *Grades: 4-adult*

Extraordinary watercolor paintings by an Army lieutenant depict Dakota Indian life in the area around Fort Snelling and the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers during the early-mid 1800s. From prairie and river landscapes to images of hunting, gardening and village life, Eastman's paintings and Lorbiecki's text bring the reader closer to the life and customs of the Dakota at a turning point both in their history and that of the Minnesota landscape. A useful complement to the book is the video, "Seth Eastman: Painting the Dakota," which includes the commentary of Dakota people (produced by Twin Cities Public Television and Afton Historical Society Press).

5th grade Social Studies unit on-line as a pdf at <http://www.ccsmdc.org/crp/edu.html>

The River That Gave Gifts: An Afro-American Story by Margo Humphrey

Children's Book Press, San Francisco. 1987 *Grades: K-5*

Four children in an African village make gifts for wise old Neema. Yanava does not know what to give and seeks inspiration from the river. In addition to themes of respect for elders and validity of different kinds of achievement, the river is portrayed as a source of power.

Rivers (Make It Work! series) by Andrew Haslam & Barbara Taylor

Two-Can Publishing, London. 1996 *Grades: 3-9*

Hands-on science and geography models and experiments fill this colorful, practical book about rivers and their features. Explores water cycle, river sources, drainage patterns, waterfalls, dams, deltas, human uses of rivers, flooding, managing rivers, and more.

Rivers and Lakes by Simon Holland and Anna Lofthouse

Dorling Kindersley Limited, New York. 2003 *Grades: 3-9*

Packed with facts, this accessible text incorporates excellent photographs and a glossary of terms explaining important words to do with rivers and lakes around the world. The book describes the physical characteristics of rivers as they flow to the sea, and the biological life within them.

The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame; illustrated by Ernest Shepard
Aerie Books, New York. 1988 *Grades: 3-adult*

This wonderful, humorous classic, filled with the curious lives of eccentric animal characters, takes place along a river. The scenic descriptions accurately reflect the habitats of each animal. While the book is often read aloud to younger children, the pace and comic conversations makes it highly entertaining for adults. Includes some challenging vocabulary.

Horns and Wrinkles by Joseph Helgerson, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. 2006
Grades 4-7

Along a magical stretch of the Mississippi River near Blue Wing, Minnesota, twelve year old Claire and her bullying cousin Duke are drawn into an adventure to save family and friends turned to stone by a river spell. Cousin Duke struggles with a Pinocchio type horn which grows each time he refuses to perform an act of kindness while Claire navigates through tricky situations involving river characters such as Bodacious Deepthink the Great Rock Troll, a helpful fairy, and a group of trolls looking for their fathers.

Tomorrow the River by Dianne E. Gray, Houghton Mifflin, Boston. 2006 *Grades 6-8*

In 1896, fourteen year old Megan joins her sister and family on their steamboat for the summer riding up the Mississippi River towards St. Paul, Minnesota. Through all of her adventures, learning to swim, navigate the river, take photographs, and work at a clamming business, Megan realizes what is her “true calling.” Newspaper articles give hints about the characters whom Megan meets and are an integral part of the plot. History and river life are skillfully woven into the fast-moving plot.

For Teachers

The Falls of St. Anthony: The Waterfall That Built Minneapolis (Paperback)

by [Lucile M. Kane](#) (Author)

Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1987

Book Description

The Mississippi's major waterfall played an important role in the development of lumbering, flour milling, and hydroelectric power in Minneapolis. The revised edition contains more than 50 photographs and a new epilogue by the author describing the commercial development along the waterfront since the 1960s.

Mill City: A Visual History of the Minneapolis Mill District

By: Edited by Shannon M. Pennefeather, Foreword by Nina M. Archabal, Introduction by Kate Roberts

Publisher: MHS Press, 2004

Book Description

This book includes accounts by the earliest European visitors to St. Anthony Falls, the children who played in the 1880s lumberyards along the banks of the Mississippi River, and workers in twentieth-century flour mills. Primary documents describe innovations in waterpower and the milling process that contributed to the successes of the Mill City. And witnesses to disasters along its shores--including the 1869 tunnel collapse that nearly destroyed the falls and the 1878 Washburn A Mill explosion that killed eighteen workers and leveled the west side milling district--provide vivid narratives of these events and the unity of purpose with which the Mill City's residents worked to ensure the survival of its industries. Through stories and images, the history of Minneapolis is firmly connected to St. Anthony Falls, where it all began.

Old Rail Fence Corners

Edited by: Lucy Wilder Morris

Publisher: MHS Press, 1976

Description

Personal stories of hardship and happiness told by 154 early Minnesota settlers re-create everyday frontier life from the 1840s to the 1860s. This collection of reminiscences was first published by the Daughters of the American Revolution in Minnesota in 1914. These short accounts include childhood memories.

Bohemian Flats

By: Federal Writer's Program

Publisher: MHS Press (1986)

Book Description

Compiled by the workers of the Writers' Program of the Work Projects Administration in the State of Minnesota ; with an introduction by Thaddeus Radzilowsky.

First Came the River

Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, National Park Service

(Only sold at the Mississippi River Visitor Center located within the Science Museum of MN-\$1.50)

Description

This 28 page illustrated booklet provides an introduction the natural history, ecological history and human history within the MNRRA Corridor up to the time of settlement.

Making Minnesota Territory, 1849-1858

By: Edited by Anne R. Kaplan and Marilyn Ziebarth Publisher: MHS Press

Description

In this lively collection of essays, historians reassess the events and meaning of Minnesota Territory 150 years after its creation. They describe how its birth in 1849 during the growing national conflict over slavery forever changed the lives of Minnesota's native and mixed-blood residents. Reinterpreting the rush to statehood in 1858, these writers offer fresh insights into the roles played by wildly optimistic territorial promoters and the no-holds-barred newspapers of the time.

This book originated as a special issue of [Minnesota History](#), the quarterly of the Minnesota Historical Society. It is being published to mark the 150th anniversary of the territory.

Eight fictional "Day in the Life" essays, as well as more than 75 historical daguerreotypes, paintings, photographs, and curators'-choice artifacts, call up the sights, sounds, and surroundings of ordinary people living in tumultuous territorial times. An essay on surviving buildings and landscapes offers readers the opportunity to see and experience territorial Minnesota today.

Union Against Unions: The Minneapolis Citizens Alliance and its Fights Against Organized Labor, 1903-1947

by [William Millikan](#) (Author), [Peter Rachleff](#) (Introduction)

Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2003

Review

A one-of-a-kind study, providing an insight into the complex nature of labor relations in the United States, a perspective on the power of class and business alliance in American politics, and an exploration into the ways powerful interests have used the state to distort the labor market, the workplace, and the political arena. This book will reshape the way we think and teach about labor and politics in the twentieth-century American city." -- Elizabeth Faue, author of *Community of Suffering and Struggle: Women, Men, and the Labor Movement in Minneapolis, 1915-1945* This valuable history of Minneapolis' most powerful business organization . . . details how employers secretly fought labor unions. . . . well-researched.-- Minneapolis Star Tribune

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Down & Out: The Life and Death of Minneapolis's Skid Row

by [Joseph Hart](#) (Author), [Edwin C. Hirschhoff](#) (Author), University of Minnesota Press, 2002

Book Description

Minneapolis's skid row, known as the Gateway district, was a lively area consisting of dozens of bars, flophouses, pawnshops, burlesque houses, charity missions, and office buildings that had aged past their prime. Encompassing some twenty-five blocks centering on the intersection of Hennepin, Washington, and Nicollet Avenues, the neighborhood was demolished between 1959 and 1963 as part of the first federally funded urban renewal project in America. Gathered here for the first time, Edwin C. Hirschhoff's stark and moving images of the Gateway district's final days—its streets, buildings, and parks, the rubble, smoke, and heavy equipment of its destruction—eloquently capture its demise. *Down and Out* provides a unique historical perspective and the most extensive photographic record available of the Gateway demolition project.

Joseph Hart's engaging and comprehensive essay complements Hirschhoff's photographs by detailing the district's social and economic evolution and the political decision making that led to its destruction. Hart presents a popular history of Minneapolis's skid row and the people who lived there, migrant workers who learned that changes in the local economy could quickly degrade their status from valued laborer to societal menace (vagrant, tramp, or bum). By capturing the texture of life on skid row, Hart reveals the lost American culture of a bygone community.

A creative photographer, entrepreneur, and inventor, Edwin C. Hirschhoff had a successful career in public relations before founding Art-o-graph, a Minneapolis business that has prospered for more than half a century. Born in Zurich, Switzerland, in 1905, he lived in Minneapolis for almost ninety years.

The Minnesota Archaeologist; Vol. 48, No. 1-2, 1989

Archaeology of the Central Minneapolis Riverfront

by Scott F. Anfinson, Published by the Minnesota Archaeological Society

Description

A study of the archaeology of the central Minneapolis riverfront. Part 1 provides the historical overview and site inventory. Part 2 presents an overview of urban archaeology.

Red River Trails

By: Rhoda R. Gilman, Carolyn Gilman, and Deborah M. Stultz

Publisher: MHS Press

Book Description

Oxcart Routes between St. Paul and the Selkirk Settlement, 1820-1870

The Red River Trails traces the historical development of the paths that ran through Minnesota, North Dakota, and Canada. These rutted, tangled roads helped to open the West and provided a passageway for the exchange of furs and trade goods hauled by skilled métis (mixed-blood) drivers in their famed Red River ox carts.

In the mid-nineteenth century, a network of primitive roadways carried an international trade in furs and merchandise between the burgeoning commercial center of St. Paul in the south and the colony that grew into modern Winnipeg in Canada to the north. These were the legendary Red River Trails, as important to the commerce and development of the West as the Santa Fe and Oregon trails.

Using nineteenth-century travel accounts and a wide variety of other sources, the authors vividly describe the trails, which passed through more than thirty-five Minnesota counties as well as southern Manitoba and eastern North Dakota. Numerous illustrations and detailed maps will help readers to visualize life on the trails and to locate the remnants that still exist today.

River of History: A Historic Resources Study of the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA)

By John O. Anfinson with contributions by Thomas Madigan, Drew Forsberg and Patrick Nunnally (Only sold at Miss. River Visitor Center located in Science Museum of MN-\$14.95)

Description

Chapter titles include: The Geology of the MNRRA Corridor, Early Native American Life in the MNRRA Corridor, Discovery and Disposition, Transforming the River I: Commerce and Navigation Improvements, 1823-1906, Transforming the River II: Commerce, Navigation Improvements and Hydroelectric Power, 1907-1963, St. Anthony Falls: Timber, Flour and Electricity, The Patterns of Agriculture, Commerce, Industry and Transportation, Settlement and Urban Residential Development Along the River, 1841-1950, and Novel and Familiar Places.

Available on-line as a pdf at www.nps.gov/miss

The River We Have Wrought: A History of the Upper Mississippi

by [John O. Anfinson](#) (Author)

University of Minnesota Press, 2003

Book Description

The River We Have Wrought is a landmark history of the upper Mississippi, from early European exploration through the completion of a navigable channel and a system of locks and dams in the mid-twentieth century. John Anfinson examines how politics has shaped the landscapes of the Upper Midwest and how taming the Mississippi River has affected economic sustainability, river ecology, and biological diversity.

A Peculiar Imbalance: The Fall and Rise of Racial Equality in Early Minnesota

By: William D. Green

Publisher: MHS Press, 2007

Description

W. Green unearths previously untold stories of African Americans in early Minnesota. In the 1850s, as Minnesota Territory was reaching toward statehood, settlers from the eastern United States moved in, carrying rigid perceptions of race and culture into a community built by people of many backgrounds who relied on each other for survival. History professor William Green unearths the untold stories of African Americans and contrasts their experiences with those of Indians, mixed bloods, and Irish Catholics. He demonstrates how a government built on the ideals of liberty and equality denied the rights to vote, run for office, and serve on a jury to free men fully engaged in the lives of their respective communities.

Historic Photos Online

<http://collections.mnhs.org/visualresources/>

<http://www.mpls.lib.mn.us/> (Photos in 'Unique Collections,' Minneapolis Photos)

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html> (Searchable database- maps and photos)